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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A messaging method comprising:
 - receiving an indication of a call from a calling party to a called party via an Internet protocol network;
 - answering the call in a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) format at a premises of the called party;
 - prompting the calling party to leave a message;
 - saving at least a portion of the message as an audio file;
 - recognizing that the calling party left the message;
 - identifying an email address associated with the calling party;
 - preparing an outgoing message in response to recognizing that the calling party left the message, the outgoing message including the email address associated with the calling party;
 - attaching the audio file to the outgoing message;
 - addressing the outgoing message to a network node associated with a unified messaging mailbox of the called party; and
 - initiating sending of the message and the audio file from the premises to the network node;wherein the call comprises a Voice over Internet Protocol call.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - disconnecting from the call;
 - prompting a modem to dial a telephone number associated with an Internet Service Provider;
 - recognizing that a connection exists with the Internet Service Provider; and
 - outputting information representing the outgoing message for delivery via the connection.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising outputting a username and password to the Internet Service Provider to gain access to an account of the called party.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
maintaining a notification list including at least one calling party;
receiving identification information associated with the call and identifying the calling party; and
determining that the calling party is the at least one calling party.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the outgoing message has a format selected from the group consisting of an electronic mail message format, a mobile alert format, an IM format, an SMS format, an EMS format, and an MMS format.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising utilizing a modem device to send the outgoing message, wherein the modem device is selected from the group consisting of a cable modem, a dial-up modem, a wireless modem, a satellite modem, and an xDSL modem.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining that a data connection exists; and
utilizing the data connection to send the outgoing message.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the messages comprises a multi-modal message having an audio component and a non-audio component.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising converting the audio file into an uuencoded text format.

11. (Currently Amended) A messaging system, comprising:
a housing component at least partially defining an enclosure;
a network interface operable to form at least a portion of a communication link between a remote node of an Internet protocol network and a component located within the enclosure;
a call awareness trigger communicatively coupled to the network interface and operable to recognize a signal indicating an incoming call from a calling party;
a call answering mechanism operable to answer the incoming call in a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) format and to prompt the calling party to leave a message;
a memory operable to store an audio file representing the message;
a messaging engine operable to compose an outgoing message, to attach the audio file to the outgoing message, and to initiate communication of the outgoing message to a remote messaging server;
a processor operable to send a notification to the called party indicating that a new voice mail message is available at the remote messaging server; and
a Voice over Internet Protocol engine communicatively coupled to the network interface to process the incoming call.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the call awareness trigger, the call answering mechanism, the memory, and the messaging engine are located within the enclosure, further wherein the call awareness trigger recognizes a ring voltage signal.

13. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a computer having a housing comprising the housing component.

14. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising:
a telephone station communicatively coupled to a jack associated with the housing component; and
a modem communicatively coupled to the network interface.

15. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a processor located within the enclosure, the processor operable to execute instructions to effectuate the messaging engine.

16. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising:
a computer jack associated with the housing component, the computer jack operable to
interconnect a computer with the component; and
a processor located within the enclosure.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, further comprising a computer readable medium having computer-readable data to allow the computer to store a username and password in the memory, to indicate a messaging address for an intended recipient of the outgoing message, and to indicate an identifier for the remote messaging server.

18. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the computer jack comprises a universal serial bus port.

19. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a broadband modem communicatively coupled to the network interface, the broadband modem operable to support an always-on connection to a broader network.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of facilitating unified messaging, comprising:
communicatively coupling a messaging device to a premises network communicatively
coupled to a wide-area communication network, the wide-area communication
network comprising an Internet protocol network;
communicatively coupling a telephone station at the premises to the messaging device;
communicatively coupling a computer to the messaging device; and
employing the messaging device to answer an incoming telephone call ~~in a Voice over~~
~~Internet Protocol (VoIP) format~~ from a calling party, to play a pre-recorded
message that prompts the calling party to leave a message, to record a voice
message from the calling party, to identify an email address associated with the
calling party, to compose an electronic mail message in response to the voice
message, to attach an audio file representing the voice message to the electronic
mail message, and to initiate sending of the electronic mail message via the wide-
area communication network;
~~wherein the incoming telephone call comprises a Voice over Internet Protocol call~~
electronic mail message includes the email address of the calling party.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising executing code directing the
computer to store a username and password in a memory associated with the messaging device,
to indicate a messaging address for an intended recipient of the electronic mail message, and to
indicate an identifier for a remote messaging server communicatively coupled to the wide-area
network.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
determining that a data connection exists interconnecting the premises network and a
node of the wide-area network; and
utilizing the data connection to send the electronic mail message.

24. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
disconnecting from the incoming telephone call;
prompting a modem to dial a telephone number associated with an Internet Service
Provider;

recognizing that a connection exists with the Internet Service Provider; and
utilizing the connection to send the electronic mail message.

25. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the audio file has a format selected from the group consisting of a .WAV file, an MP3 file, a .MIDI file, and a .AU file.

26. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising addressing the electronic mail message to more than one intended recipient.

27. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising attaching a second file to the electronic mail message comprising non-audio information communicated by the calling party.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable data to answer an incoming telephone call in a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) format from a calling party via an Internet protocol network, to play a pre-recorded message that prompts the calling party to leave [[a]] an audio portion of a message and that prompts the calling party to include non-audio data with the message, to record a voice message from the calling party, to compose an electronic mail message in response to the voice message, to attach an audio file representing the voice message to the electronic mail message, and to initiate sending of the electronic mail message; wherein the incoming telephone call comprises a Voice over Internet Protocol call.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 29 wherein the audio file is encoded in an unencoded text format.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A messaging system, comprising:

a network interface responsive to an Internet Protocol network to receive a call;
a call answering mechanism to answer the call in a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) format and to prompt the calling party to leave an audio portion of a message, and to prompt the calling party to leave a non-audio portion of the message;
a memory to store the message, ~~the message comprising an audio portion and a non-audio portion;~~
a messaging engine to compose an outgoing message including the stored message and to transmit the outgoing message to a remote messaging server; and
a VoIP engine communicatively coupled to the network interface to process the call.

33. (Previously Presented) The messaging system of claim 32, wherein the non-audio portion comprises a text message.

34. (Previously Presented) The messaging system of claim 32, wherein the non-audio portion comprises a visual message.

35. (Previously Presented) The messaging system of claim 32, wherein the messaging engine addresses the outgoing message to one or more intended recipients.